

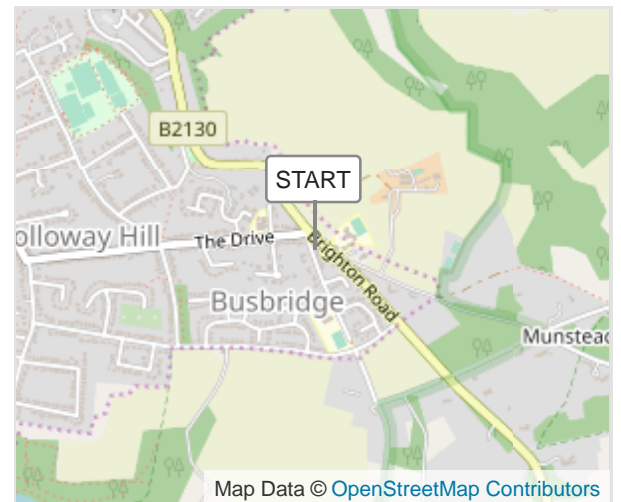


# Busbridge History Walk

## ROUTE INFORMATION



ROUTE LENGTH	3.245 miles
ASCENT	246 ft
DESCENT	242 ft
HILLS	↑ 39.7%   ↓ 50.0%   → 10.3%
TERRAIN	Mixed
START	<b>LAT:</b> 51.176995, <b>LNG:</b> -0.601901



## NOTES

This circular walk of just over 3 miles celebrates the history of Busbridge. Along the way, we will uncover some of the hidden detail, the people, places and things that have led to the development of Busbridge as we know it today.

Many of the paths are surfaced but those that are not may be uneven in places. Please leave 3 or 4 minutes at each stop to read the history and look to see what you can see. You may wish to leave longer to visit the church at the beginning or end of the walk. The whole walk will probably occupy between two and two and a half hours.

The walk starts and ends at Busbridge Church, St John the Baptist. It is a short distance from the Chestnut Way bus stop on Home Farm Road. This stop is served by the No. 42 Compass Bus which connects to Guildford, Farncombe, and Godalming in one direction and Cranleigh in the other. Please check a current timetable for details before setting off. There is NO SUNDAY SERVICE. If you are arriving by car, parking is usually available in Hambledon Road next to the church.

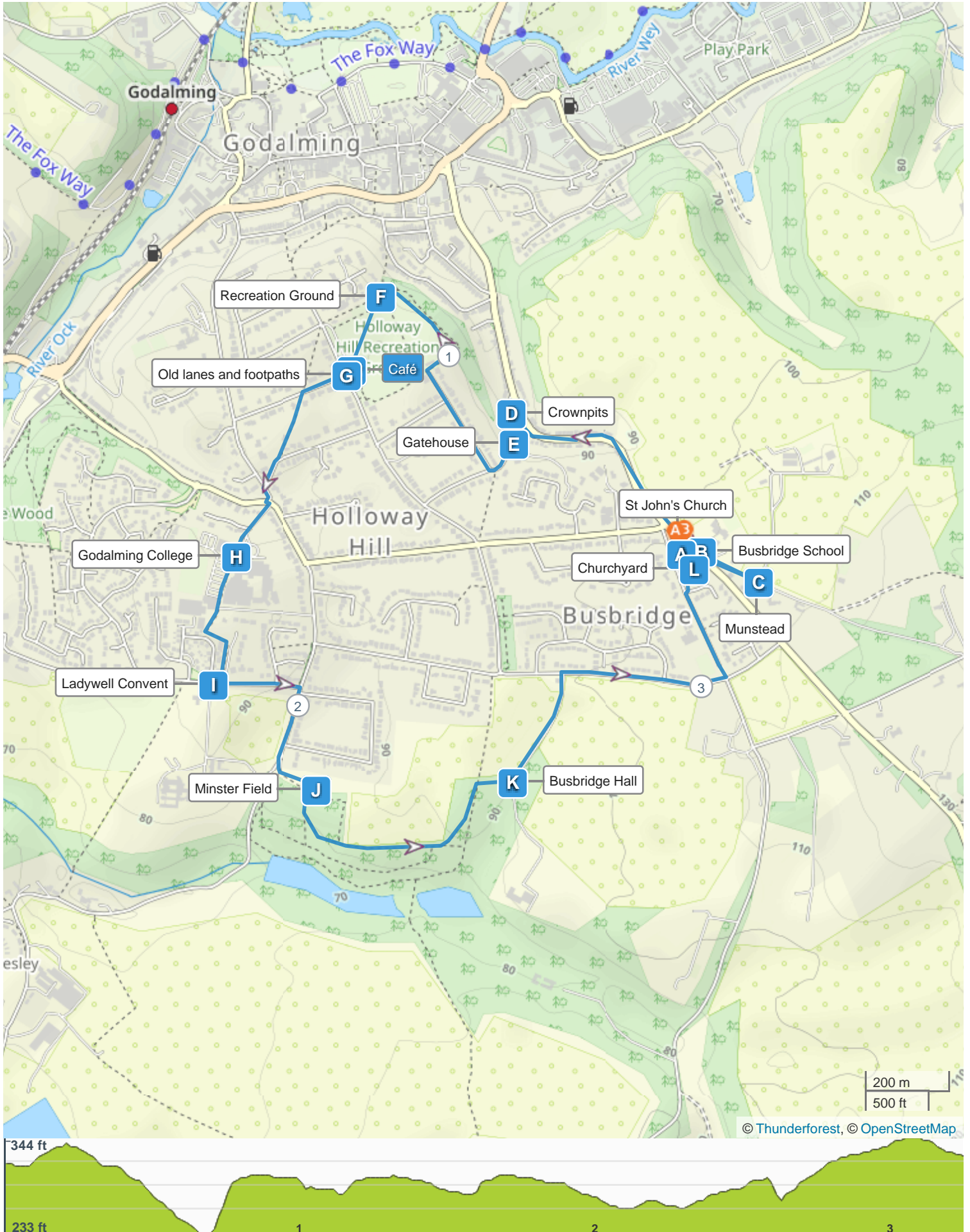
Few of the locations on this walk are routinely open to the public although St John's Church is often open during the day when there are no services and the recreation ground is a public open space. Several other locations have occasional 'open days' so look out for announcements on social media or in the local press if you would like to pay a visit.

---

### A note about references

The material for this history walk has been drawn from many sources. Books, pamphlets, and on-line sources have all been used and can provide further reading if you are inspired to find out more. Godalming Library has a good local history section. The walk is intended to be a fun introduction to the history of Busbridge, not a 'learned work', and so I have not filled it with lots of references. If you are an author or owner of any of the pictures and feel that I have not properly credited your work, please let me know. I am also pleased to receive corrections or additional information.

# Busbridge History Walk





## ROUTE DIRECTIONS


No	Miles	Turn	Directions
1	0.013		<p>The walk starts in front of the church. There are benches in the churchyard if you want to pause before setting off. You will also find the friendly Yew Tree Café here in the churchyard where there are toilets should you need them.</p> <p>If you had come here 150 years ago, there would have been a newly built church and almost nothing else to see. Very few of the buildings that we think of as Busbridge today would have existed. The foundation stone of St John's was laid in 1865 and the church was consecrated in 1867. A year later the nearby school was founded. There was an adjacent rectory. Apart from these few buildings, you would have looked and walked across fields and farms.</p> <p>If the church is open, you can go in now or save the visit for the end of your walk.</p>
2	0.018		<p><b>A</b> <b>St John's Church</b></p> <p>As you enter the porch, look up to see the initials 'JCR' and 'ESR' carved in the corners above the arch. As you might guess, they represent two people who were significant in the history of this church. The foundation stone of the church of St John the Baptist, Busbridge, was laid by four year old Ellis Duncombe Gosling in 1865. His mother, Emma Susan Ramsden of Busbridge Hall, had been widowed just a few weeks before Ellis was born and in 1863 she was remarried to Captain John Charles Francis Ramsden. John and Emma became the main benefactors through who's generosity the church was established.</p> <p>The building was designed by George Gilbert Scott and is built of Bargate stone but the need for a church had clearly been appreciated for some time. Even before the foundation stone had been laid, Rev William Tringham had been appointed as incumbent. While the parish awaited the completion of its church, Rev Tringham celebrated divine service in a barn at Busbridge Farm on the Busbridge Estate. John and Emma were not the last parishioners to contribute generously to the development of the church. Many more followed and, if you go through into the church, you will find fine examples of the work of the Arts and Crafts movement of the period. Books and pamphlets are available recording many of the details. If you just want to wander and enjoy, be sure to take in the chancel screen (1899 - designed by Sir Edward Lutyens), the stained glass windows (around 1899 by Morris and Co. and around 1915-25 by Archibald K Nicholson), the unusual inscriptions on the north wall commemorating the fallen of the two World Wars (1914-1918 and 1939-1945), and various monuments, some with names you may already recognise.</p>
3	0.034	➔	<p>As you leave the porch with the church behind you, turn immediately right and follow the path through the churchyard. At the light-controlled crossing, cross the road and turn right to walk up the hill a short way to stand in front of the school.</p>


No	Miles	Turn	Directions
4	0.100		<p data-bbox="316 118 651 163"><b>B</b> <b>Busbridge School</b></p> <p data-bbox="296 188 1528 297">The founding of the school proceeded hand in hand with the founding of the church. In January 1865 lessons started in School House which still stands to the left of the school. There was one mistress.</p> <p data-bbox="296 306 1506 416">School House was owned by Captain Ramsden who also held the adjacent land which he donated for the construction of a purpose built school. On this occasion, it was Ellis Duncombe Gosling's sister, Vere Gosling, who laid the foundation stone.</p> <p data-bbox="296 425 1522 613">The school opened on 1 March 1868. It comprised a single school room (that measured 35 feet by 15 feet), a porch, and an external timber construction serving as a coal store and toilets for the boys and girls. The toilets were 'earth buckets' that had to be emptied by horse and cart along with those from the other properties in Brighton Road. The school had been built to accommodate 64 pupils.</p> <p data-bbox="296 622 1538 891">Given the prosperity of Busbridge today, it is perhaps surprising to learn that these pupils lived in relative poverty. They were mostly the sons and daughters of agricultural labourers from the surrounding farms. The children walked to school, some coming from as far afield as Tuesley and Thorncombe Street. Those that came up the hill from Crownpits may have been slightly better off, being more closely involved with the town and its trades. The children of the more wealthy landowners would have undoubtedly been educated at home or sent away to boarding school.</p> <p data-bbox="296 900 1513 1126">With 64 children crammed into one school room, often ill clad and sometimes wet after their walk to school, it is hardly surprising that there were frequent epidemics of various kinds. The school log book tells of many children being absent and the school being closed to be whitewashed following a round of mumps, whooping cough, scarlet fever, croup, lice, or diphtheria. In winter, the single coal stove was kept going by the school master and the ash deposited outside to create a 'play ground'.</p> <p data-bbox="296 1135 1533 1480">As the population of Busbridge grew, so did the needs of the school. In the early days little was provided by way of government funding. The tuppence a week paid by each child would not have covered the schoolmaster's salary and the school's day to day expenses, let alone the large costs of extending the buildings as numbers grew. The school must have relied on the generosity of the Ramsden and other wealthy families. Smoke from the stoves, poor attendance of the pupils, frequent changes of staff and the ongoing unsatisfactory state of the toilets vexed the school managers on a regular basis. In 1902, one James May was still being paid £8 per annum for emptying the earth buckets and the old lavatory building was not fully replaced until 1956.</p>
5	0.129	↖	<p data-bbox="296 1507 1538 1655">Continue up the hill a short way and, immediately after crossing the vehicle entrance to the school and village hall, bear left along the unsurfaced track, Heath Lane. Walk up Heath Lane for about 80 yards until you reach the high stone wall with a gate and curious tower on your right.</p>



No	Miles	Turn	Directions
6	0.195	↓	<p><b>C</b> <b>Munstead</b></p> <p>Alongside the lane run the grounds of Munstead Wood, former home of the well known garden designer, Gertrude Jekyll.</p> <p>In 1877, at the age of 33, Gertrude moved into nearby Munstead House which her mother had just had built for them. Five years later, her mother was prompted to buy some nearby land, not because she had any particular plan for it but rather to prevent the possibility of it being developed by someone else. However, by 1894, Gertrude started to develop plans for a house of her own on the site. She had formed a friendship with architect Edwin Lutyens and by this time the friendship had developed into a working partnership with Lutyens designing houses in his particular grand-vernacular style and Jekyll, or 'Bumps' as Lutyens nicknamed her, setting out the gardens. Gertrude had trained as an artist and she used her sense of colour to design gardens in an informal style that became popular with her clientele. Together they worked on the design for her house, Munstead Wood.</p> <p>On the death of her mother in 1895, Gertrude's brother, Herbert, and his family inherited Munstead House and Gertrude moved into Munstead Wood. Initially she inhabited a temporary residence that she called 'The Hut' and then, on its completion in 1897, she transferred to the completed house.</p> <p>From her base at Munstead Wood, Gertrude designed gardens, wrote books and periodical articles, and ran a thriving nursery business providing sometimes hundreds of plants to populate the gardens she designed.</p> <p>The curious tower that is built into the wall that runs beside the road is Gertrude's 'Thunder House'. It was included in the plan for her by Lutyens to enable her to view thunder storms, an apparent fascination of hers. One might guess that the nearby trees have grown since so that the once fine view across Surrey is now obscured.</p> <p>Munstead Wood is not routinely open to the public so please respect the privacy of the owners.</p>
7	0.224		<p>Munstead Wood in 1964</p>  <p><i>By kind permission of Godalming Museum</i></p>
8	0.269	↗	<p>Retrace your steps to the main road and turn right down the hill for about 400 yards. The Rev. Larner, a former Rector of Busbridge, discovered a document recording a proposed tour by Queen Elizabeth I (1558-1603) which included a journey from Loseley to Cowdray. He noted that, 'There used to be a tradition that the Queen's carriage stuck in a sunken way... leading from Crown pits to Munstead Heath'. Apparently it stayed there for several years!</p>
9	0.501		<p>Just before the road bends to the left, note the entrance to the disused stone and sand quarries on the right. Continue around the bend to find a safe place to cross the road.</p>


No	Miles	Turn	Directions
10	0.622	↖	After crossing the road, continue down the hill to a green on the left. Walk onto the green. You will find a seat just beyond the children's play area.
11	0.683		<p><b>D</b> <b>Crownpits</b></p> <p>This area is called Crownpits. It is a small settlement that predates the church and hence most of Busbridge.</p> <p>The area is a source of sand and Bargate stone and the settlement probably grew up around the quarries that ran behind the houses on the far side of the road. Well Cottage and Weavers Cottage, the timber framed cottages with white painted brick infill that face you, are the oldest dwellings. They probably date from the late 1600s but may incorporate the remains of an earlier timber frame structure.</p> <p>The area has continued to develop up to the present day with new buildings often taking the place of earlier ones. Maps of Crownpits in the 1800s show pubs at the T-junction, The Three Crowns and The Queens Head. There was also a post office. Travellers setting out from Godalming may have found this a good place to rest as they struggled up the hill.</p> <p>Also at the T-junction, the building with very tall chimneys was formerly the Busbridge Institute. It is timber framed at its ends and tile-hung in the middle and was presented to the Parish in 1886 for use by the Busbridge Cricket Club and as a Men's Club "for the promotion of friendly intercourse among its members, to promote Newspapers to inform, games to amuse, and books to interest.' It was apparently built at the instruction of Ellis Duncombe Gosling. (Remember, he laid the foundation stone of the church.) On the ground floor there is a plaque which reads, 'This institute was presented to the parish of Busbridge for a remembrance of Dudley Gillespy Bois, Lieut R G A. Born 21st July 1889, died 4th Oct 1915 on active service off Gallipoli.'</p>
12	0.701		<p>A view of Crownpits thought to date from around 1930.</p>  <p><i>By kind permission of Godalming Museum</i></p>
13	0.713		Walk behind the children's play area and join Crownpits Lane, the road that climbs the hill behind the green. Follow the road up the hill. It is a steep but short climb.
14	0.731		<p><b>E</b> <b>Gatehouse</b></p> <p>As you climb the hill, note the gateway and lodge on your left. At one time this was a route to Busbridge Hall which we will visit later. In the early 1900s, it became the entrance to a large property, named Crownpits, which was cut in two only 30 years later when the residential roads at the top of the hill were laid out.</p>


No	Miles	Turn	Directions
15	0.740		<p>Crownpits in 1938 showing the property 'Crownpits' with its land being sliced in two by The Drive.</p>  <p><i>By permission of the National Library of Scotland</i></p>
16	0.787	➔	Turn right along Grosvenor Road.
17	0.961	➔	At the far end of Grosvenor Road, pass into the recreation ground and turn immediately right to follow the perimeter path. Look out for occasional glimpses of Godalming through the trees to your right. There are seats if you wish to rest and enjoy the view.
18	1.117	↖	Continue along the path to pass the children's playground. The view opens out across the cricket field to the pavilion beyond and there are more seats. Pause here.

No	Miles	Turn	Directions
19	1.147	↖	<p><b>F</b> <b>Recreation Ground</b></p> <p>The recreation ground was formerly known as Whitehart Field and probably passed from agricultural use in around 1883. It was initially used as an alternative cricket ground to the one already in place at Busbridge Hall. In June 1885, 'The Banner of Faith' reported that: 'Owing to the kindness of Ellis Gosling, Esq., the Godalming Recreation Club can boast one of the most beautiful grounds in England. It is approached by a somewhat steep ascent, being situated on Holloway Hill, overlooking the town, but when once reached, no one can regret the trouble of climbing. On this ground every facility is afforded for Cricket, Football, Quoits, Lawn Tennis, Bicycling, and almost every conceivable outdoor amusement. A Ladies' Pavilion has lately been added (also through the kindness of E. Gosling, Esq.); here every arrangement has been made for providing boiling water in the event of tea being required, so a whole summer afternoon may be passed on the delightful spot.' The ladies must surely have been delighted.</p> <p>In 1896, Ellis Duncombe Gosling and his step-brother, Frederick William Ramsden, agreed to sell the land to the Godalming Recreation Club Company Limited that had been set up specifically to administer this wonderful resource on behalf of the community.</p> <p>During the First World War (1914 to 1918), food production became the priority and the ground was mostly dug over as allotments although the cricket squares were preserved from this treatment.</p> <p>In 1922, as life settled back to normal after the war, Godalming Borough Council agreed to acquire the ground of around 15 acres as 'Godalming Recreation Ground'.</p> <p>Early Ordnance Survey maps chart the transition from farm field to recreation ground. They show Pound Hill, the track that comes up from Godalming behind you, cutting diagonally across to where the pavilion now stands. Its route was diverted to make an uninterrupted space. Follow its original route (unless, of course, there is a match on, in which case it might be polite to go round the edge!)</p> <p>There is a café in the pavilion.</p>
20	1.166		<p>The recreation ground in 1902 during celebrations for the coronation of King Edward VII.</p>  <p><i>By kind permission of Godalming Museum</i></p>
21	1.263		<p><b>C</b> <b>Café</b></p> <p>As you cross the field, pass to the right of the pavilion. (The Howling Owl Café in the pavilion is open every day except Monday. Check their website for details. If you visit the café, you will need to turn left as you leave.)</p>



No	Miles	Turn	Directions
22	1.269		Go into the small car park which is just to the right of the pavilion as you approach it across the field. Go through the small pedestrian exit just a few steps away from the pavilion to cross over Busbridge Lane and into Ramsden Road.
23	1.274		<p><b>G</b> <b>Old lanes and footpaths</b></p> <p>Busbridge Lane features prominently on an early map of 1760. Its interesting to note that most of the routes with names ending in 'Lane' are old. They go back to 1760 and before. These include Busbridge, Crownpits, Shackstead, Tuesley, and Ashstead Lanes. Routes with names ending in 'Road' are generally of more recent construction. Many were laid down in the late 1800s or early 1900s. We are about to walk along Ramsden Road. (Now, where did that name come from?) Of course there are some exceptions. Brighton Road and Hambledon Road are ancient routes to rather more distant destinations than the local 'Lanes'. Routes with names ending in 'Close' and with rather more fanciful names like The Paddock and Park Chase generally appeared in the late 1900s and early 2000s.</p> <p>The Ordnance Survey map of 1871 records a number of tracks criss-crossing what was then farmland. During the final decades of the 1800s, as development began to replace fields with houses, these tracks could have been swept away. However, most of them remain as footpaths, either in precisely the same positions or slightly realigned to accommodate the new development. We will follow one of them shortly.</p>
24	1.341	↶	Walk along Ramsden Road for about 100 yards. Just by the second lamp post on the left you will find one of the former tracks, now a footpath. Turn left to follow the path.
25	1.449		Bear right along Oakdene Road for a short distance and then turn left to the junction of Tuesley Lane with Shackstead Lane.
26	1.526	↑	Cross the road and follow the driveway to Godalming College.
27	1.578	↑	As the front of the college comes into view, take the footpath on the right between the railings and the brick wall/fence.
28	1.617		<p><b>H</b> <b>Godalming College</b></p> <p>In the early 1900's, with the ever expanding population, came a realisation that a good quality school was required to continue the education of children past junior level. A group of local people came together to champion the cause and Godalming County Grammar School was founded.</p> <p>Even before the building on the current site was in place, teaching was underway. For a while, a nucleus of pupils were taught at the Oddfellows Hall in Godalming Town. Oddfellows Hall still stands and has become part of the Fox &amp; Finch pub (better known locally as the Red Lion). If you visit Godalming, you can see the Oddfellows' crest on the outside or go in for a bite to eat in the old schoolroom.</p> <p>On the current Holloway Hill site, the 1930's red brick grammar school building is prominent as you approach.</p> <p>In 1974 secondary education was reorganised locally and the Grammar School became a VI Form College. The grammar school pupils, at that time in their second year, worked their way through and were joined by VI formers from schools round about. By 1978, the transformation to Godalming College was complete. From the footpath you will see many new buildings that have been added to equip the college.</p>

No	Miles	Turn	Directions
29	1.655		<p>In 2022, The Red Lion in Godalming acquired 'a new dress' and emerged as the Fox &amp; Finch. The plaque on the wall says that the hall that forms the left-hand end of the pub was used by Godalming Grammar School from 1885 to 1913.</p>  <p>© Martyn Sandford</p>
30	1.696		<p>Continue along the footpath with the grounds of Godalming College on either side. After a left and right dog-leg, the path emerges onto Ashstead Lane. Turn right for a few paces and pause at the entrance of Ladywell Convent.</p>
31	1.844		<p><b>I</b> <b>Ladywell Convent</b></p> <p>Ladywell has the look of a place that has been here forever. However, it is not as ancient as it perhaps looks.</p> <p>A house was established here in 1910 for Major-General D A Scott. It was named Tuesley Court Farm. In 1956 it was purchased by the Franciscan Missionaries of the Divine Motherhood to be used as a convent and was renamed Ladywell. The property has been frequently extended and adapted to meet the changing needs of the community.</p> <p>Of course, the Franciscan order traces its roots back to a much earlier date, to the 1100's and its founder, St Francis of Assisi. The Franciscan Missionaries of the Divine Motherhood is a branch that originated in the 1880's with a small group of women committed to following Christ by living the Gospel after the example of St Francis. Their commitment found expression in mission, initially focused on helping mothers and babies. The mission gradually grew with a community in Aldershot looking after around 100 orphans and in 1935 the opening of a 17 bed maternity and general hospital, Mount Alvernia, in Guildford. The sisters managed all aspects of care in the hospital from working in theatre to building an extension. They delivered babies in the maternity ward, tended to the gardens, worked in the kitchens and sometimes even found time to play croquet on the lawn.</p> <p>The spirit of this place attracted other young women and it was from Mount Alvernia that missionaries started to be sent to China and Zambia (Northern Rhodesia as it was known then). After World War 2 (1939-1945), horizons opened to bring Christ's love and care to newly opened missions on all five continents. The convent at Ladywell was established as a 'Motherhouse', away from the busyness of Mount Alvernia and where 'novitiates' could come to prepare for their mission.</p> <p>Since the mid 1970's Ladywell has come to be a place where elderly and frail sisters can be cared for in their later years. Life is constantly changing and the 21st century holds different challenges but the mission to bring healing to our world and to those who come to Ladywell remains. Ladywell now offers a space of peace and tranquillity, where renewal of body, soul and spirit can become a reality for those in need.</p>

No	Miles	Turn	Directions
32	1.867		<p>The front entrance to Ladywell Convent in 1988</p>  <p><i>By kind permission of Godalming Museum</i></p>
33	1.868		<p>Retrace your steps past the footpath from Godalming College and continue forward along Ashstead Lane.</p>
34	1.975	➔	<p>At the end of Ashstead Lane turn right and, passing Minster Road, continue for about 200 yards down Tuesley Lane.</p>
35	2.080	↶	<p>Just after passing Minster Road for the second time, continue forward for about 20 yards (take care, there is no footway here) and then bear left up a short track and go through the two sets of gates. Turn immediately left to cross Minster Field towards the white statue at the far end.</p>
36	2.144		<p>Go through the small gate on your left into what is probably the earliest site we will visit on our walk. There are seats here where you can read and enjoy the tranquility.</p>
37	2.178		<p><b>J</b> <b>Minster Field</b></p> <p>This is the site of what is probably Godalming's first church, built between 550 and 650AD. It may be the site of an even more ancient shrine to the Anglo-Saxon war-god, Tiw. This god's name is thought to have given rise to the modern place name, Tuesley, which appears in the Domesday Book of 1086 as Tiwesle, a subsidiary manor of Godalming that rendered £2 to its overlord, Rannulf Flambard. It is recorded as having a population of 8 households.</p> <p>In 1220 the name Tiwerlei was recorded in the Salisbury Register of St Osmund as 'a chapel, still standing but in a ruinous state dedicated to the Blessed Virgin, the first church established in the manor, so known and recorded in Godalming records as 'the mother church or the Oldminster''. Notwithstanding its ruinous state, services were still held here three times a year and a fair was held in the field on Lady Day (25th March) until 1540.</p> <p>In 1860 the foundations of the chapel were partly excavated by J .C. Ramsden of Busbridge Hall. The excavations indicated it to be stone built with a nave of 21' x 14' and an eastern extension of 12' x 11' providing a chancel. In the farthest compartment were found nine skeletons.</p> <p>After the excavations the site was reburied and the present garden marks out its site. The sisters of Ladywell erected the statue of the Virgin Mary.</p> <p>Services are still held here from time to time, especially at sunrise on Easter Sunday Morning.</p>

No	Miles	Turn	Directions
38	2.203		Leave the garden by the same gate and turn left for a few paces with the fence of the garden on your left and woodland ahead. Go into the woodland to follow the path that is straight ahead. It takes you slightly downhill.
39	2.234	↖	At the noticeboard, bear left.
40	2.309	↑	After about 40 yards go straight ahead and through the gate.
41	2.458	↖	At the mound, bear left. (It's marked as a 'Temple' on early maps.)
42	2.518	↖	Bear left to join the path coming up from your right. (When the route was surveyed in January 2023, there was large, fallen tree here. The pathway remained passable but you will need to skirt round the roots of the tree .)
43	2.565	→	After about 80 yards the woodland starts to thin out and more open fields can be seen ahead. Turn right on a minor path that descends through the edge of the woodland. (In January 2023, further fallen trees lay beside the path a little before the turn. The path may be quite difficult to make out at the top but becomes more clearly defined as it descends the hill.) Continue down the hill to the gates of Busbridge Hall.



No	Miles	Turn	Directions
44	2.615		<p data-bbox="316 118 603 163"><b>K</b> <b>Busbridge Hall</b></p> <p data-bbox="300 188 1474 259">At last we arrive at Busbridge Hall. We can only view it from the gates but it is such a significant location in the history of Busbridge that it is worth pausing here.</p> <p data-bbox="300 268 1538 456">Busbridge Hall occupies a pleasant position overlooking a small tributary of the River Ock which has been dammed to create a chain of small lakes. In the past, the estate comprised many more acres than surround it now and, over the centuries, the estate has had many owners. There have been too many to give a detailed history here but some are worthy of specific mention:</p> <p data-bbox="300 465 1538 613">1500s - In about 1560, during the reign of Henry VIII, the estate is recorded as being sold by James de Bushbridge to John Eliot of Godalming. John's grandson, Lawrence, is believed to have accompanied Drake when he made his round the world voyage in the Golden Hind.</p> <p data-bbox="300 622 1538 810">1600s - Lawrence's son, William, was knighted in 1620 and served as MP for Haslemere in the Short Parliament of 1640. He built a house here on the south side of the lakes and his park of 500 acres received a royal grant of free warren which meant he could hunt game on this land. After Sir William died in 1650, the estate passed through at least three further generations of the Eliot family.</p> <p data-bbox="300 819 1538 896">1700s - Philip Carteret Webb, another MP for Haslemere and solicitor to the Treasury, a distinguished lawyer, antiquary, and collector, died at Busbridge in 1770.</p> <p data-bbox="300 904 1538 1245">Chauncy Hare Townshend was born at the house in 1789, his father having bought it two years earlier. Chauncy was a poet, clergyman, mesmerist (putting people into a sleep-like mental state), collector, dilettante and hypochondriac. He bequeathed his collections to the South Kensington Museum (now the Victoria and Albert Museum) and the Wisbech &amp; Fenland Museum in Cambridgeshire. They comprised: 4464 books, 1411 paintings, engravings and prints (including works by Canaletto, Rubens and Teniers), 687 fossils, 9 cases of stuffed birds and animals, a large collection of coins, 622 specimens of gems and minerals, 267 pieces of jewellery, 5 portfolios of autographs and a collection of maps.</p> <p data-bbox="300 1254 1538 1442">1800s - Bennett Gosling, a London banker, had become owner and through his will the estate passed to his nephew, Ellis Gosling. In 1861, Ellis died at the early age of 25. His widow, Emma, remarried and, with her new husband, John Charles Ramsden, J.P., played a significant part in establishing the church and school that we visited at the start of the walk.</p> <p data-bbox="300 1451 1538 1639">1900s - In 1906, Mr. P. Graham replaced the original 17th century house with a new one in early 20th century Edwardian style. The old house was demolished and a different site was selected to the north of the lakes for the new one. In 1920 he offered the Busbridge Hall estate for sale advertising 'picturesque Pleasure Grounds include tennis and croquet lawns, terraced gardens and a chain of three lakes'.</p> <p data-bbox="300 1648 1538 1796">Later, Reginald Earle owned the estate but, following his death on 18 April 1951, his estate faced crippling death duties which meant the Hall had to be sold. Mrs. Earle gave the cricket pavilion that stood in the grounds to the people of Busbridge as a village hall. It was dismantled and re-erected next to the school.</p> <p data-bbox="300 1805 1538 1953">Mr. Mason, a Tuesley farmer, bought the estate in 1957 but did not want all of it and auctioned 454 acres in 24 lots, only two of which failed to find a purchaser. The Hall itself became a holiday centre for the Post Office Fellowship of Remembrance which had been set up to support Post Office workers affected by both wars.</p> <p data-bbox="300 1962 1538 2033">2000s - After a period as a nursing home, Busbridge Hall was redeveloped into 10 luxury apartments.</p> <p data-bbox="300 2042 1538 2114">Some of the early estate buildings and the lakes now comprise a separate property called Busbridge Lakes which hosts one of England's largest collections of waterbirds.</p>



No	Miles	Turn	Directions
50	3.218	↶	<p><b>L</b> Churchyard</p> <p>Pass to the left of the church centre and down the narrow path into the churchyard. Note that several of the people we have come across during our walk are buried here. Directly ahead, in front of the east wall of the church, you will find the graves of Ellis Gosling and his son Ellis Duncombe Gosling. To the left is the Jekyll family grave where Gertrude and her brother, Herbert, are buried together with Herbert's wife, Agnes. Herbert was a friend of Robert Louis Stevenson who wrote 'The Strange case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde'.</p> <p>If you did not look around the church at the start, you may wish to do so now. For refreshments, you will find the Yew Tree Café to your left.</p>
51	3.245		FINISH